

NOTES ON GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Amphibia, Anura, Leiuperidae, *Physalaemus erythros* Caramaschi, Feio and Guimarães-Neto, 2003: Distribution extension

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The Neotropical frog genus *Physalaemus* Fitzinger, 1826 currently comprises 42 species (Frost 2009) divided into seven species groups: *P. cuvieri* group, *P. signifer* group, *P. albifrons* group, *P. deimaticus* group, *P. gracilis* group, *P. henselii* group, and *P. olfersii* group (Nascimento et al. 2005). Species of this genus occur from southern Mexico to northern Argentina (Frost 2009). *Physalaemus erythros* was recently described (Caramaschi et al. 2003) based on one male and two female individuals, and currently only eight specimens are known (Appendix 1). Recently, Baêta et al. (2007) described the tadpole, advertisement call, and provided some notes on the natural history of *P. erythros*.

On 30 October 2008, we collected a gravid female of *P. erythros*, snout-vent length 23.3 mm (Figure 1), at the edge of *Córrego Verruguinha*, *Reserva Particular do Patrimônio Natural Serra do Caraça* (RPPN Serra do Caraça), municipality of Catas Altas (20°08'28" S, 43°28'5" W; 1676 m above sea level), state of Minas Gerais. The habitat is a small river in an altitudinal rocky field plateau (a typical Brazilian *campo rupestre*). The river has a rocky bed and forms some pools and small waterfalls. The sparse vegetation consists of small trees and grasses. Other species occurring in the area are *Bokermannohyla martinsi* (Bokermann, 1964), *Vitreorana eurygnatha* (A. Lutz, 1925), and *Iscnocnema* aff. *lactea*.



Figure 1. Adult female of *Physalaemus erythros* (MNRJ 55001; SVL = 23.3 mm) from RPPN Serra do Caraça, municipality of Catas Altas, state of Minas Gerais, southeastern Brazil. Photo by José P. Pombal Jr.

The collected specimen was compared against type-specimens, and deposited in the collection of *Museu Nacional*, Rio de Janeiro (MNRJ 55001). This is the first record outside the type-locality and extends the distribution of *P. erythros* about 33 km (straight-line distance) northwards (Figure 2). It suggests that this species may be typical of *campo rupestre*.

The anuran fauna from *RPPN Serra do Caraça* consists of 43 reported species (Canelas and Bertoluci 2007), including three *Physalaemus* species: *Physalaemus cuvieri* (*P. cuvieri* species group), *P. evangelistai* (*P. gracilis* species group), and *Physalaemus* aff. *olfersii* (*P. olfersii*

species group).

Nascimento et al. (2005) reviewed the genus *Physalaemus* and proposed the *Physalaemus deimaticus* species group to include *P. deimaticus*, *P. erythros*, and *P. rupestris*. Up to the present study, these three species were known only from their type-localities (Figure 2). Several new records have recently increased the distributional range of species with restricted distribution in Brazil (e.g. Araújo et al. 2007; Targino and Wild 2009). The new record of *P. erythros*, close to its type-locality, suggests that this species, like others, may have a greater distribution than currently known.

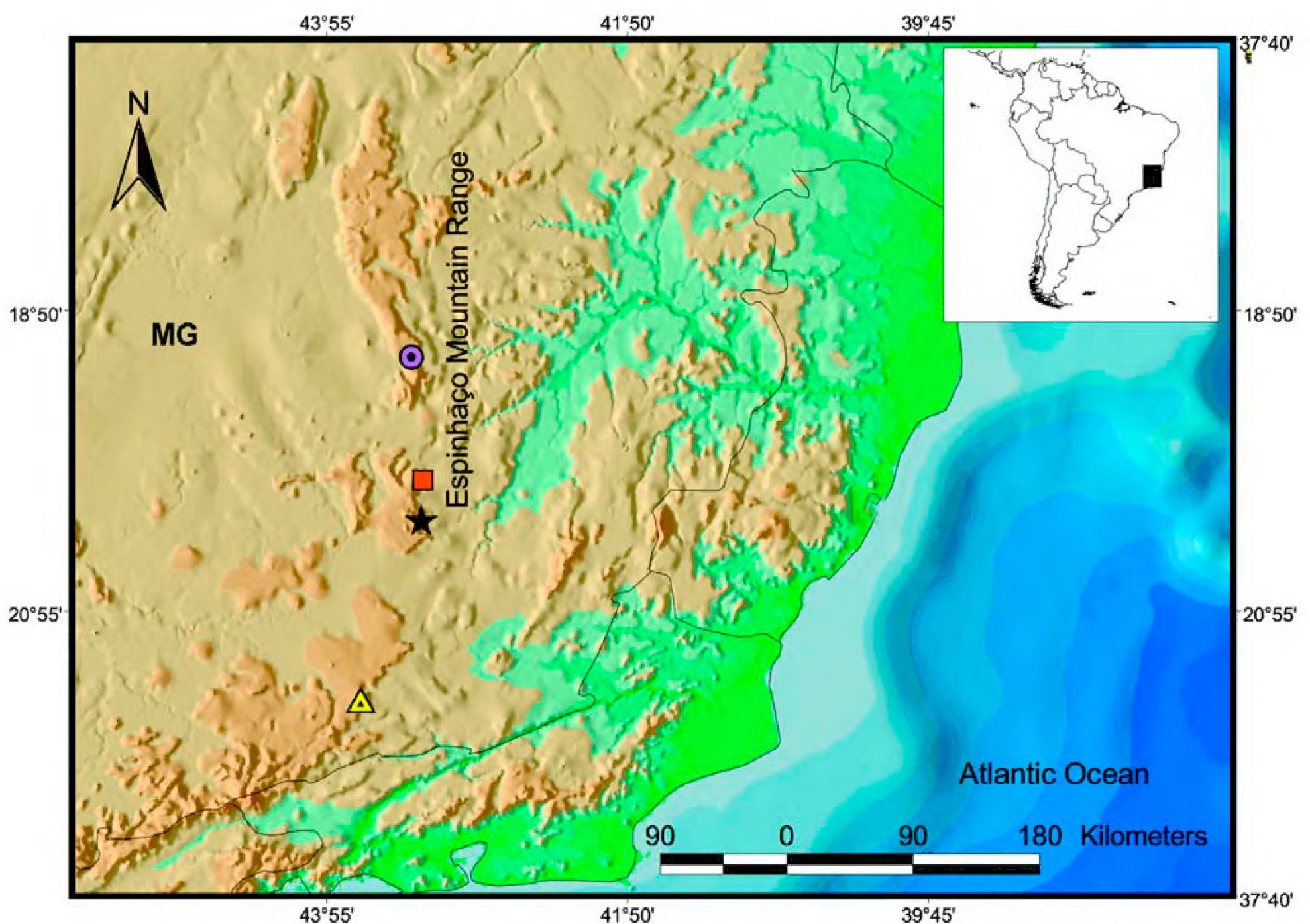


Figure 2. Geographic distribution of *Physalaemus deimaticus* species group in the state of Minas Gerais (MG). Star: *P. erythros* (type-locality); red square: new record of *P. erythros* (*RPPN Serra do Caraça*); purple circle: *P. deimaticus* (Jaboticatubas, now Santana do Riacho: Sazima and Caramaschi 1986); yellow triangle: *P. rupestris* (Lima Duarte, Ibitipoca: Caramaschi et al. 1991).

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Appendix 1. Specimens examined. The acronyms are LZV (*Laboratório de Zoologia dos Vertebrados*, Ouro Preto) and MNRJ (*Museu Nacional*, Rio de Janeiro). *Physalaemus erythros*: Brazil: state of Minas Gerais, municipality of Ouro Preto, *Parque Estadual do Itacolomi, Lagoa Seca*: MNRJ 27986 (Holotype), MNRJ 27539, 30608 (Paratypes), MNRJ 46694, LZV 272A, 547A, 810A, 1265A. Municipality of Catas Altas, *RPPN Serra do Caraça, Córrego do Verruginha*: MNRJ 55001.